

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 07143 092057Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 091140Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8851
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7143

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, OAU, EG, NI, CM, IV, GB, CG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MINSTATE GHALI VISIT TO LAGOS

REF: (A) CAIRO 14094, (B) YAOUNDE 2779

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ACCORDING TO FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PRESS
RELEASE, CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER YAR'ADUA MET ON JUNE 7
WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
DR. BUTROS GHALI WHO DELIVERED A SPECIAL MESSAGE OF
"FRIENDSHIP," "BROTHERHOOD" AND "SOLIDARITY" FROM
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT.

2. AFTER THE USUAL MUTUAL CONDEMNATION OF COLONIALISM
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, THE RELEASE STATED:
QUOTE THEY ALSO AGREED THAT FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE
AFFAIRS OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT SHOULD NOT BE
TOLERATED BUT THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SETTLED
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 07143 092057Z

UNITY (OAU).

IN THIS CONNECTION, AND HAVING REGARD TO RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA, GREAT EMPHASIS WAS PLACED
ON THE NEED FOR CONSTANT CONSULTATION AMONG OUR LEADERS
IN ORDER TO REINFORCE NOT ONLY AFRICAN UNITY BUT ALSO
AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY. UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MAKLOUF INFORMED POLCOUNS THAT GHALI AND HIS ENTOURAGE OF EIGHT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING TWO AMBASSADORS, ARRIVED IN LAGOS BY PRIVATE PLANE JUNE 7 AND LEFT EARLY JUNE 8 FOR YAOUNDE, ABIDJAN, LIBREVILLE, AND KINSHASA. THE MAJOR REASON FOR GHALI'S JUNKET, ACCORDING TO MAKLOUF, WAS TO DO SOME SPADEWORK IN PREPARATION FOR THE OAU AND NONALIGNED SUMMITS, BOTH SCHEDULED FOR JULY. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WITH YAR'ADUA INCLUDED: THE WIDENING RIFT BETWEEN FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND NON-AFRICAN INFLUENCE IN AFRICA AS EVIDENCED IN CHAD/LIBYA, ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA, AND SHABA.

4. MAKLOUF SAID THE EGYPTIANS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED BY NON-AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA IN GENERAL AND THE EFFECT FRENCH INTERVENTION IN SHABA IS HAVING IN WIDENING THE GAP BETWEEN FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES. THE EGYPTIANS ARE APPREHENSIVE THAT THE JULY OAU SUMMIT "WHERE ALL THE AFRICAN ISSUES WILL COME TO A HEAD" WILL BE RENDERED INEFFECTIVE BY SQUABBLING AND INABILITY TO COME TO ANY CONSTRUCTIVE DECISIONS.

5. ACCORDING TO MAKLOUF, THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION SOFT-PEDALLED THE CUBAN ISSUE. ALTHOUGH EGYPT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 07143 092057Z

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, THE EGYPTIANS FELT IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO PRESS THE ISSUE IN VIEW OF THE NIGERIAN STANCE. HE SAID YAR'ADUA HAD LITTLE TO SAY ON SHABA AND NOTED THAT THE EGYPTIANS SENSED THE NIGERIANS WERE STILL GROPING IN THIS AREA.

6. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR MAKLOUF IS AN ADMIRER OF THE UNITED STATES (HE HAS LIVED THERE FOR 13 YEARS AND ONE DAUGHTER IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN) AND AN ASTUTE OBSERVER. HE SAID THAT WHEN GHALI WAS PLANNING HIS TRIP, HE WAS INFORMED OBASANJO AND GARBA WOULD NOT BE IN THE COUNTRY AT THIS TIME. MAKLOUF RECOMMENDED HE COME ANYWAY BECAUSE ALTHOUGH GARBA IS ALREADY KNOWN TO THE EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP YAR'ADUA IS NOT AND MAKLOUF BELIEVES IT IS LIKELY BOTH GARBA AND YAR'ADUA WILL SOON RESIGN FROM THE MILITARY AND HEAD FOR THE POLITICAL HUSTINGS.
WYMAN

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